

1 I claim:

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1 1. A circuit for lighting an electro-luminescent device, comprising:

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3 a voltage source;

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5 an electro-luminescent device having a high voltage connection and a
6 grounded low voltage connection;

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8 a switching converter comprising;

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a first inductor having first and second ends, said first end of
said first inductor being connected to said voltage source;

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12 a second inductor having first and second ends, said first end of
13 said second inductor being connected to said voltage source and
14 to said first end of said first inductor;

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16 a first switching device having a first end and a grounded second
17 end, said first end of said first switching device being
18 connected to said second end of said first inductor at a first
19 junction;

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21 a second switching device having a first end and a grounded
22 second end, said first end of said second switching device being
23 connected to said second end of said second inductor at a second
24 junction;

25

26 an oscillating switch driver electrically connected to said first
27 and second switching devices such that said first switching
28 device is closed when said second switching device is open, and
29 such that said first switching device is open when said second
30 switching device is closed; and

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32 a transformer device comprising;

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33 a first input electroactive disk having first and second opposing
34 electroded major faces and polarized in a thickness direction
35 normal to said first and second opposing electroded major faces
36 such that upon application of voltage across said first and
37 second opposing electroded major faces, said first and second
38 opposing electroded major faces deform radially;

39 said first electroded major face being electrically
40 connected to said first junction;

41 said second electroded major face being electrically
42 connected to said second junction;

43
44 a first output electroactive disk having first and second
45 opposing electroded major faces and polarized in a thickness
46 direction normal to said first and second opposing electroded
47 major faces such that upon application of voltage across said
48 first and second opposing electroded major faces, said first and
49 second opposing electroded major faces deform radially;

50 said first electroded major face being electrically
51 connected to said high voltage connection of said electro-
52 luminescent device;

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54 a constraint layer mechanically bonded between said first
55 electroded major face of said first input electroactive disk and
56 said first electroded major face of said first output
57 electroactive disk such that said constraint layer at least
58 partially constrains said radial deformation of said first
59 electroded major face of said first input electroactive disk;

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61 wherein said constraint of said radial deformation of said first
62 electroded major face of said first input electroactive disk
63 prevents said first electroded major face of said first input
64 electroactive disk from radially deforming as much as said second
65 electroded major face of said first input electroactive disk
66 radially deforms such that there exists a difference between the

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3 wherein said difference between the amounts of radial deformation of
4 said first and second opposing electroded major faces of said first
5 output electroactive disk creates a shear strain in said first output
6 electroactive disk.

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1 6. The circuit of claim 5,

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3 wherein said mechanical bond of said constraint layer is selected from
4 the group of bonds formed through processes comprising cofiring
5 together said constraint layer and said input and output electroactive
6 disks, adhering together said constraint layer and said input and
7 output electroactive disks, and combinations thereof.

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1 7. The circuit of claim 6, wherein said transformer device further
2 comprises:

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4 a second input electroactive disk having first and second opposing
5 electroded major faces and polarized in a thickness direction normal
6 to said first and second opposing electroded major faces such that
7 upon application of voltage across said first and second opposing
8 electroded major faces, said first and second opposing electroded
9 major faces deform radially; and

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11 a first mechanical bond attaching said first electroded major face of
12 said second input electroactive disk to said second electroded major
13 face of said first input electroactive disk such that said second
14 electroded major face of said first input electroactive disk at least
15 partially constrains said radial deformation of said first electroded
16 major face of said second input electroactive disk;

17
18 wherein said constraint on said radial deformation by said second
19 electroded major face of said first input electroactive disk prevents
20 said first electroded major face of said second input electroactive
21 disk from radially deforming as much as said second electroded major

22 face of said second input electroactive disk radially deforms such
23 that there exists a difference between the amounts of radial
24 deformation of said first and second opposing electroded major faces
25 of said second input electroactive disk.

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1 8. The circuit of claim 7, wherein said transformer device further
2 comprises:

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4 a second output electroactive disk having first and second opposing
5 electroded major faces and polarized in a thickness direction normal
6 to said first and second opposing electroded major faces such that
7 upon application of voltage across said first and second opposing
8 electroded major faces, said first and second opposing electroded
9 major faces deform radially; and

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11 a second mechanical bond attaching said first electroded major face of
12 said second output electroactive disk to said second electroded major
13 face of said first output electroactive disk such that said first
14 electroded major face of said second output electroactive disk at
15 least partially constrains said radial deformation of said second
16 electroded major face of said first output electroactive disk;

17

18 wherein said difference between the amounts of radial deformation of
19 said first and second opposing electroded major faces of said first
20 output electroactive disk creates a shear strain in said first output
21 electroactive disk;

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23 and wherein said radial deformation of said second electroded major
24 face of said first output electroactive disk radially strains said
25 first electroded major face of said second output electroactive disk
26 via said third mechanical bond;

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28 and wherein said radial deformation of said first electroded major
29 face of said second output electroactive disk is greater than a radial
30 deformation of said second electroded major face of said second output

31 electroactive disk such that there exists a difference between the
32 amounts of radial deformation of said first and second opposing
33 electroded major faces of said second output electroactive disk;
34
35 and wherein said difference between the amounts of radial deformation
36 of said first and second opposing electroded major faces of said
37 second output electroactive disk creates a shear strain in said second
38 output electroactive disk.

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1 9. The circuit of claim 8,

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3 wherein said direction of polarization of said first input
4 electroactive disk is opposite said direction of polarization of said
5 second input electroactive disk.

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1 10. The circuit of claim 9,

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3 wherein said direction of polarization of said first output
4 electroactive disk is opposite said direction of polarization of said
5 second output electroactive disk.

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1 11. The circuit of claim 10,

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3 wherein said first and second switching devices comprise first and
4 second transistors.

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1 12. The circuit of claim 11,

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3 wherein said oscillating driving device comprises a dual output gate
4 driver having an input pin, an inverting output pin and a non-
5 inverting output pin;

6 said inverting output pin being connected to a gate of said first
7 transistor;

8 said non-inverting output pin being connected to a gate of said
9 second transistor; and

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11 an oscillator having an output pin for transmitting an oscillating
12 voltage signal, said output pin of said oscillator being electrically
13 connected to said input pin of said oscillating driving device.

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1 13. The circuit of claim 12,

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3 wherein said oscillator comprises a trigger pin and a threshold pin, a
4 resistor and a capacitor;

5 said trigger pin being electrically connected to said threshold
6 pin;

7 said resistor being connected between said trigger pin and said
8 output pin;

9 said capacitor having a grounded first end and a second end
10 connected between said resistor and said threshold pin.

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1 14. The circuit of claim 13, further comprising:

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3 a feedback subcircuit having an input side and an output side;

4 said input side of said feedback subcircuit being electrically
5 connected to said high voltage connection and said low voltage
6 connection of said electro-luminescent device

7 said output side of said feedback subcircuit being connected to said
8 threshold pin of said oscillator.

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1 15. The circuit of claim 14, further comprising:

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3 a dimmer electrically connected between said first electroded major
4 face of said first output electroactive disk and said high voltage
5 connection of said electro-luminescent device.

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1 16. The circuit of claim 14, further comprising:

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3 a dimmer electrically connected between said voltage source and said
4 first and second inductors.

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1 17. The circuit of claim 16,
2 wherein said feedback subcircuit comprises a subcircuit selected from
3 the group consisting of voltage sensing, current sensing, phase
4 sensing and combinations thereof.

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